

Appl. No.: 10/629,662
Amdt. dated 12/14/2007
Reply to Office action of January 3, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The non-final Office Action was issued on pending claims 1, 3, 5-12 and 14-19. Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 18 and 19 stand rejected and claims 12 and 14-17 were objected to. In this Response, claims 1 and 15 have been amended, claim 14 has been canceled and no claims have been added. Thus, claims 1, 3, 5-12 and 15-19 are pending in the application.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Allowable Claims

At page 4 of the Office Action, claims 12 and 14-17 were objected as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the notice of allowable claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 14, albeit without intervening claim 12. Applicants respectfully submit intervening claim 12 is not needed for amended claim 1 to be allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to include that "the slider body has a pull attaching post on a part of an upper surface of the slider body, and the pull attaching post is retained in the receptacle by said moving interruption means." Those features added to claim 1 from allowable claim 14 are simply not found in *Hudson, Matsushima et al.* or *Yoshida*. The features of intervening claim 12 pertain to other features of the cover member and the moving interruption means which are not needed to distinguish the *Hudson, Matsushima et al.* or *Yoshida*.

Amended claim 1 recites "the pull attaching post is retained in the receptacle by said moving interruption means" rather than "the pull attaching post is fitted and supported in the receptacle by said moving interruption means" in original claim 14. The reason for the change is that the term "retained" appears to be more appropriate according to the English language than the text of "fitted and supported" translated from the Japanese priority document. Applicants submit use of the term "retained" is fully supported by the application as originally filed and does not include new matter. Referring to Figs. 4, 6, 7 and 8, the pull attaching post 15a is retained in the receptacle 26 of the cover member 22 by the projecting

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row portions 21c in the recesses 27 (moving interruption means). Also, see the specification at page 17, line 12 – page 20, line 11.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 is allowable. The dependent claims are also allowable, at least for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

At pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 5-11, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hudson* (US 6,533,335) in view of *Matsushima et al.* (EP 1,088,490) and *Yoshida* (JP 42-10707). Applicants respectfully disagree.

As mentioned above, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 is allowable. The dependent claims are also allowable at least because claim 1 is allowable.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the §103(a) rejections have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

/Stephen G. McNiff/

Stephen G. McNiff
Registration No. 53,350

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Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Atlanta Office (404) 881-7000
Fax Atlanta Office (404) 881-7777

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